

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/708,244

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Applicant(s)

OWEN ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/29/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-11 and 13-19.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-19 are allowed.
2. Claims 6 and 12 have been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art Huang et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,707). Huang et al disclose a decision support management system for addressing a set of related decision problems utilizing decision logic for a supply chain. But Huang et al do not teach an application interface providing an interface between the application and the collaborative decision platform, where the steps of: (ii) executing an application capable of performing decision logic, (ii) retrieving information from a database in accordance with the decision logic, (iii) receiving information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface (iv), and processing the information utilizing the decision logic are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules to different business sectors taken in combination with a method and system for providing customer-centric collaborative decision making in a business-to-business framework as recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

The closest prior art Huang et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,707). Huang et al disclose a decision support management system for addressing a set of related decision problems utilizing decision logic for a supply chain. But Huang et al do not teach an application interface providing an interface between the application and the collaborative decision platform, where the steps of: (ii) executing an application capable of performing decision logic, (ii) retrieving information

Art Unit: 3623

from a database in accordance with the decision logic, (iii) receiving information from a user in accordance with the decision logic utilizing a user interface (iv), and processing the information utilizing the decision logic are carried out using universal modules capable of interfacing with different applications adapted for applying the universal modules to different business sectors taken in combination with a computer program product for providing customer-centric collaborative decision making in a business-to-business framework as recited in independent claim 7.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. DeTorre et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,397) disclose a method and apparatus for use in automated decision-making processes.

b. Ferguson (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,951) discloses a methods and apparatus for enabling groups of users to collaborate in decision making.

c. Grossier (U.S. Patent No. 6,826,552) discloses a computer-aided decision-making system employing a rules-based analysis engine having a plurality of rules for selecting, scoring and ranking a plurality of sub-choices.

d. Wong (Preference-Based Decision Making for Cooperative Knowledge-Based Systems which teaches a problem and decision-making tasks.

e. Glickman (Interpreting Business Assessment Results) teaches a tornado diagram.

Art Unit: 3623

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (703) 308-9585. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Romain Jeanty

Primary Examiner

December 13, 2004



ROMAIN JEANTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER